

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS, ICNAF, PL

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH POLISH MARITIME OFFICIALS

REF: A. STATE 260365; B. WARSAW 6979

1. AS NOTED REFTEL B (NOTAL), EMBOFFS MET NOVEMBER 27 WITH VONAU AND ANDERS. VONAU SAID THAT THE POLISH DELEGATION THOUGHT THAT THE ICNAF SPECIAL MEETING HAD BEEN PRODUCTIVE, BUT POLES WERE SEVERELY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE US DELEGATION HAD NOT FOUND TIME DURING THE ENTIRE WEEK TO ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL ISSUES. HE NOTED THAT THE POLES HAD COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH THE US DELEGATION, AND THAT ALL SIDES AGREED THAT POLISH SHIPS WERE ADHERING TO THE SPIRIT, AS WELL AS THE LETTER, OF THE ICNAF AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. THUS, HE SAID, THE ABSENCE OF EVEN INFORMAL PERSON-TO-PERSON BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY GALLING TO HIS DELEGATION. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, HE NOTED THAT CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN HAD SAID NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE DURING HIS LONG DISCUSSION WITH VICE MINISTER PIETRASZEK.

2. VONAU SAID THAT THE POLES WOULD LIKE BILATERAL
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DISCUSSIONS ON SEVERAL ISSUES, AND THAT THE DISCUSSIONS

SHOULD BEGIN WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC ON JUNE 30, 1975. HE STRESSED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION WOULD BE THE REPATRIATION OF POLISH CREWMEN THROUGH US WEST COAST PORTS. VONAU SAID THAT HE HAD FELT EMPTYHANDED WHEN HE DISCUSSED THE US POSITION WITH THE SKIPPERS OF THE POLISH FISHING FLEET ON NOVEMBER 26. THE QUESTION OF REPATRIATION, HE SAID, IS MORE THAN AN ECONOMIC ISSUE; IT HAS SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE OF CREWMEN WHO MUST SPEND LONG PERIODS AT SEA. THE RIGHT OF REPATRIATION FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. THE POLES WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PERMISSION TO USE ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING PORTS FOR THIS PURPOSE: HOMER, SEWARD, CORDOVA, YAKUTAT, SKAGWAY, JUNEAU, SEATTLE, TACOMA, ARTEZIE, COOSBAY, EUREKA, OAKLAND, LONG BEACH AND SAN DIEGO.

3. THE SECOND TOPIC WOULD BE THE RENEWAL AND EXPANSION OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON NORTH ATLANTIC FISHERIES. THE POLES WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THIS TO COVER HAKE FISHING ON THE WEST COAST. HOWEVER, THEY HOPE THAT SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS COULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED: SALE OF FILLET TO US FIRMS; USE OF PORTS FOR TRANSSHIPMENT OF FISH FROM VESSEL TO VESSEL; BUNKERING FACILITIES; AND REPATRIATION OF CREW. VONAU STATED THAT THE POLES WILL AGREE TO ANY US ENFORCEMENT MEASURE, INCLUDING US OBSERVERS ON BOARD. ALL OF THESE SUBJECTS COULD BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY OR AS A PACKAGE DEAL ACCORDING TO US PREFERENCES.

4. VONAU NOTED THAT GORTONS AND MRS PAULS ARE BOTH NEGOTIATING FOR THE EXCLUSIVE PURCHASE OF POLISH FISH FILLETS. THE POLES ARE WILLING TO START DISCUSSION WITH US FISHING INTERESTS ON POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE VENTURES USING POLISH VESSELS AND TECHNOLOGY. THEY WOULD GLADLY CONSIDER ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT, AND WOULD BE VERY FLEXIBLE WITH REGARD TO DETAILS.

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5. EMBOFFS TOLD VONAU THAT THE US GOVERNMENT IS RELUCTANT TO MOVE ON BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENTS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. FURTHERMORE, AFFECTED US INDUSTRIES MIGHT RAISE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS IF THE POLES WERE GRANTED FISHING RIGHTS OR WERE ALLOWED TO INVEST IN THE DOMESTIC US FISHING INDUSTRY.

6. EMBOFFS INFORMED VONAU THAT THE BILL TO ESTABLISH A 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. HE REPLIED THAT, IF ADOPTED, THE BILL WOULD LEAD TO A RASH OF UNILATERAL MEASURES BY OTHER COASTAL STATES. HE NOTED ALSO THAT SOME LDC'S (PERU IN PARTICULAR) HAD SHOWN MORE ATTENTION TO ECONOMICS AND LESS TO IDEOLOGY AT THE LAST NEW YORK MEETING OF EVENSON GROUP, AND IMPLIED THAT THIS FLEXIBILITY MIGHT DISAPPEAR IF THE BILL BECOMES LAW.

7. COMMENT: EMBOFFS BELIEVE THE EMPHASIS ON REPATRIATION OF CREWS THROUGH US PORTS REFLECTS THE GENUINE INTEREST OF THE GOP IN IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE DEEP-SEA FISHERIES. IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE, WE SUPPORT THE POLISH DESIRE TO BEGIN TALKS WELL BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROPOSE A TIME AND PLACE FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS.

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